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**Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing earns positive inspection rating**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** -- The 176th Wing finished a triple inspection from its higher headquarters March 12 with an overall satisfactory grade, indicating the wing is effective and competent.

"We have an outstanding group of people doing amazing things every day," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Calvin, command chief of the 176th Wing. "I think that's been proven through this inspection."

Three separate inspection teams from three agencies simultaneously visited the 176<sup>th</sup> Wing throughout a 10-day period. Meanwhile, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's 673<sup>rd</sup> Wing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wing also underwent compliance inspections. The inspections ensure units are compliant with laws and regulations.

"We have to maintain integrity and build faith and confidence in the community," said Col. Donald Wenke, the 176th Wing's commander. "Compliance shows we are good stewards of their tax dollars. Our job is to organize, train and be equipped. We need tax-payer money to do that so we can defend our state and nation."

The inspections have a two-fold purpose: to ensure units are following laws and to get an honest assessment on where units are in their progress to full compliance. One tool units utilize is the self-inspection program. This allows the inspected to be honest with the inspectors and themselves as to how much progress they have made and how much is yet to be done.

The Health Services Inspection (HSI) of the medical group, performed by a team from the Air Force Inspection Agency, was the first assessment to be completed.

"We had done more than 120 internal self-inspections before they came," said Lt. Col. Sharolyn Lange, the chief of nursing services for the 176th Medical Group. "I already knew what programs needed work."

In the end, the inspection team found the 176th Medical Group as "fully engaged and prepared to ensure continued mission success."

Outstanding performers such as Tech. Sgt. Leslie Kemper, an aerospace medical journeyman with the 176<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, received recognition from the HSI team leader for going above and beyond with the unit's programs.

"We pulled a lot of 12-hour days," said Kemper, adding that she and her co-workers wanted the wing to be proud.

The two other inspections, the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program (LCAP) and the Consolidated Unit Inspection (CUI), wrapped up simultaneously. The LCAP evaluated all logistics processes – planning, supplying and moving military forces – in a unit's logistics readiness squadron and its maintenance group. It concentrates mainly on personnel task proficiency, while the CUI is more process- and record-oriented.

The wing's agencies put in a lot of effort, overcoming many obstacles to obtain their scores.

"In the past 12 months, we've picked up a wing, moved, had two major deployments and prepared for seven and a half months, all without cessation of flying," said Capt. Luke Davis, the logistics operations officer from the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Several agencies received an "excellent," and the 212th Rescue Squadron, home of the "Guardian Angels," received an "outstanding," the highest score possible.

The inspections also help improve processes across the Air Force. One program, developed by Master Sgt. Brian Neild, the human resource systems manager from the 176<sup>th</sup> Force Support Flight, was eyed by the inspectors for such possible use.

"Beyond compliance with the regulations and checklists, the inspectors are looking for innovation," said Neild, explaining why he had been recognized as an outstanding performer. "I developed a database, implemented it and shared it throughout the Guard."

Under the direction of the wing commander and the lead of the wing's chief of exercises and plans, Lt. Col. David Looney, wing members had been preparing for the inspections since before their move to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson a year ago.

Looney ensured the wing agencies were running their respective self-inspection programs and using the Management Internal Control Toolset, a system containing compliance inspection checklists. The wing had more than 18,000 checklist requirements to meet.

Though the wing scored well, it still has things to work on.

"This is a down-in-the-weeds inspection," Looney said. "There's no way we'd have everything."

The inspection may be over, but the wing's efforts are not.

"Our work is not done," said Col. Robert Doehl, the 176<sup>th</sup> Wing vice commander. "We have a couple of areas that require some attention, and we all have areas identified for us where we can make improvements. Moreover, we must now set a pace and expectation that we sustain and build upon the programs we have made and modified since we arrived on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson less than a year ago."

The wing's scores were well-received by leadership and recognized as an effort on the part of its members.

"I would like to say thank you to the members of this wing," Wenke said. "Thank you for the hard work you put in to make this a success. Everyone should be proud of the scores they received."

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